

to "dodge the Law of Rent" If one were to try to summarize the distinctive contribution made by Webb not only to the Fabian outlook, but to the development of British Socialism, one might cite this steady insistence on the practical, and this equally steady refusal to dodge Practicality and truthfulness came, alike, not from a cold temper but from an enthusiasm seeing the actual problems as far too instant and too serious for mere light-headed playing with them

In the quite early days, a group within an association known as the Hampstead Historic Society settled down with the estimable intention of reading Karl Marx. The first volume of *Das Kapital* was available, in French Graham Wallas, then teaching in Highgate, was, with other members of the Quartette, a party to this effort. He records that the students started off with the expectation of finding themselves in agreement with Marx. To their surprise, they found that they were not Sidney Webb early brought up the Ricardian Law of Rent, which Marx skilfully evades by his use of the Hegelian dialectic, and insisted that it had got to be faced met, and not "dodged"

His arguments his report on the third volume, which he had perused in German, and pronounced to be "no good" his marshalling of the Jevons doctrine of Marginal Utility, combined to convince the group that, so far as the strictly economic side of Socialism went, they were not Marxians

In the subsequent gradual working out of

what was to
be the typical Fabian approach, he, again, took
the lion's
share. The results were far-reaching. Had he,
and his
associates in the years between 1885 and
1892, or in the
years from 1892 on, accepted the Marxian
analysis and
the Marxian dialectic, the course of the British
Labour
movement must have run along entirely
different lines.
He and his Fabian colleagues reached their
conclusions